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(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 233 285**⁽¹³⁾ **A**
(43) Date of A publication 09.01.1991

(21) Application No 8914548.6

(22) Date of filing 24.06.1989

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(51) INT CL⁸
B44C 1/28

(52) UK CL (Edition K)
B6G GBZ
G5C CGAT

(56) Documents cited
GB 2026750 A **GB 0841060 A** **WO 89/06603 A1**
GB 959999
On-line database WPI

(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition J) B6G GBE GBZ, G5C CGAT CGAX
INT CL⁸ B44C
On-line database: WPI

(54) **Clearview mosaic sheeting**

(57) A clearview mosaic sheet is produced by applying a transparent or translucent self-adhesive film to the face side of mosaic pieces. Thus the design formed by the individual tesserae can be seen through the transparent or translucent sheet. The sheeted mosaic can be used as a display. Alternatively the mosaic can be installed, eg with cement, and the transparent or translucent film stripped off.

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CLEARVIEW MOSAIC SHEETING

This invention relates to a method of sheeting mosaics.

'Mosaic' refers to a broad range of materials normally presented in a variety of ways. The size and shape of each piece can vary from large tiles to tiny hand-cut pieces. In order to produce material which does not have to be installed piece by piece, it is pre-set in a number of ways by manufacturers and some craftsmen. Tessera(e) refers to the individual piece(s). They may be of a consistent or mixed format in colour, shape, size or material, giving a plain, patterned, variegated or other effect. The same means of pre-setting are used to prepare mosaic art works, murals, features and other forms of mosaic specialist work by manufacturers, tiling companies, individual craftsmen, etc. There are two main methods for producing mosaic sheets. Both have limitations and disadvantages.

a) Paper facing, using water based adhesive with ordinary (opaque) paper adhered to the face side and removed after installation by moistening. Sheets are vulnerable and may tear or damage in transit and during installation, and can be ruined by damp or moisture dislodging the pieces from the sheets as the water-based adhesive dissolves before installation. The material (being plain or in the form of a design) cannot be viewed from the face side until after installation when the paper facing is removed.

b) Mesh backing, where a paper, nylon or other synthetic mesh is permanently adhered to the back of the pieces of the tesserae. This has the disadvantages of being vulnerable to

stretching and distortion, and inhibits good adhesion contact to the substrate by occluding part of the back of the tessera(e). Mesh backing of all forms can become a separating membrane, particularly where some movement or differential expansion occurs in the substrate, causing the mosaic finish to dislodge.

These two commonly used methods limit the production of mosaic designs and features where the material has to be set in reverse.

According to the present invention, a transparent or translucent sheet of plastic or other film with a tack adhesive, which is also transparent or translucent, is applied to the face side of tesserae to create a mosaic sheet. This film is sufficiently transparent or translucent to view the face side of the tesserae during production and installation, and also for the presentation of samples and displays. Alterations to a design can be made at any stage until installation. After installation, when the cement, adhesive or other setting has hardened, the film is peeled off. The clearfilm used has a high resistance to moisture and temperature change. It will not easily tear, stretch or distort. Production is quick, as no time is lost waiting for adhesive to dry.

CLAIM

A method of sheeting mosaics using transparent or translucent self-adhesive film. The film is applied to the tesserae so that the face side is visible.